Attorney Docket No: 20200/2092 (Serial No.: 09/889,802)

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Filed: September 17, 2001
Third Preliminary Amendment

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 126 through 220 without prejudice and replace with the following new claims 221 through 238.

(New) An oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA), comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and wherein the target gene is a mammalian gene.

(New) The dsRNA of claim 221, having a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

223. (New) The dsRNA of claim 221, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

224. (New) The dsRNA of claim 221, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands.

225. (New) The dsRNA of claim 224, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

226. (New) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a mammalian cell, the method comprising:

- (a) introducing into the cell an oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA), comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene; wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and
- (b) maintaining the cell produced in step (a) for a time sufficient to obtain degradation of an RNA transcript of the target gene, thereby inhibiting expression of the target gene in the cell.

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- 227. (New) The method of claim 226, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.
- 228. (New) The method of claim \$26, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.
- 229. (New) The method of claim 226, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands.
- 230. (New) The method of claim 226, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.
- 231. (New) The method of claim 226, wherein the cell is a human cell.
- (New) A mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a double stranded structure (dsRNA) comprising two separate RNA strands, and wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene.
- 233. (New) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.
- 234. (New) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length.
- 235. (New) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.